

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1-38. (Cancelled)

39. A stable composition for absorbing oxygen and releasing carbon dioxide in a carbon dioxide-flushed and sealed container having a high moisture environment, the composition comprising by weight:

an iron-based means between about 15% and about 60% for absorbing oxygen;

a carbon dioxide releasing means between about 8% and about 50% for releasing carbon dioxide;

a solid electrolyte material means;

a dry acidifying means; and

a dry, water-attracting means comprising less than about 3% of moisture for maintaining stability of said composition

whereby said composition is adapted to be rendered active only after exposure to said high moisture environment.

40. A composition as set forth in claim 39 wherein said iron-based means is selected from the group consisting of particulate iron, iron II sulfate, iron II oxide, iron II carbide, and iron carbonyl.

41. The composition of claim 39 wherein said iron-based oxygen absorbing means comprises between about 20% and about 40% and said carbon dioxide releasing means comprises between about 10% and about 39%.

42. The composition of claim 41 wherein said dry water-attracting means comprises between about 4% and about 30%.

43. The composition of claim 39 wherein said iron-based oxygen absorbing means comprises between about 25% and about 35% and said carbon dioxide releasing means comprises between about 15% and about 22%.

44. The composition of claim 43 wherein said dry water-attracting means comprises between about 10% and about 15%.

45. The composition of claim 39 wherein said dry moisture-absorbing means is selected from the group consisting of silica gel, diatomaceous earth, perlite, zeolite, activated alumina, activated carbon, activated clay, molecular sieve, and cellulose.

46. The composition of claim 44 wherein said iron-based component means is selected from the group consisting of particulate iron, iron II sulfate, iron II oxide, iron II carbide, and iron carbonyl.

47. A composition of claim 39 wherein said dry water-attracting means comprises between about 1% and about 70%.